

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DECEMBER 3, 1963

A54

25X1A9a

NIGHT LEAD SUICIDES (270)  
BY MALCOLM W. BROWNE  
ASSOCIATED PRESS STAFF WRITER

CPYRGHT

HAIGON, VIET NAM, DEC. 3 (AP)-TWO VIETNAMESE MEN COMMITTED SUICIDE BY FIRE TODAY, ADDING FOR UNANNOUNCED REASONS TO A WAVE OF SELF-IMMOLATIONS BEGUN LAST JUNE 11 BY A BUDDHIST MONK, THICH QUANG DUC. NEITHER WAS IDENTIFIED.

ONE MAN, SO EMACIATED POLICE DEDUCED HE HAD BEEN VERY ILL, BURNED HIMSELF TO DEATH IN THE SECLUSION OF A SUBURBAN CEMETERY. SCHOOL CHILDREN FOUND HIS CHARRED CORPSE.

THE SECOND MAN SET FIRE TO HIS GASOLINE-SOAKED CLOTHING ON A STREET CORNER A HALF BLOCK FROM THE RESIDENCE OF U.S. AMBASSADOR HENRY CABOT LODGE.

BEFORE A CROWD OF HUNDREDS, HE BURNED FOR 15 MINUTES. THOUGH FATALLY SEARED, HIS BODY STILL TWITCHED CONVULSIVELY WHEN A FIRE DEPARTMENT CREW PICKED IT UP. AN AMERICAN WOMAN WITNESS SWOONED.

THIS MAN APPARENTLY HAD BEEN DRESSED IN A BLACK CALICO SHIRT AND TROUSERS, NORMAL APPAREL FOR A VIETNAMESE PEASANT OR WORKING MAN.

NO PAPERS OR OTHER IDENTIFICATION WERE FOUND WITH EITHER BODY. THOUGH POLICE SPECULATED ILL HEALTH MIGHT HAVE LED TO THE SUICIDE IN THE CEMETERY, THERE WAS NO APPARENT EXPLANATION FOR THE DEATH ON THE QUIET, TREE-LINED STREET WHERE LODGE LIVES.

THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IS A VILLA RECENTLY VACATED BY JOHN H. RICHARDSON, FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY (CAP CIA) IN SOUTH VIET NAM.

IN ALL, THERE HAVE NOW BEEN THREE VIETNAMESE SUICIDES BY FIRE SINCE A MILITARY COUP NOV. 1-2 DESTROYED PRESIDENT NGO DINH DIEM AND HIS GOVERNMENT.

A SERVANT GIRL, TRAN BATH NGA, BURNED HERSELF TO DEATH AT A STREET INTERSECTION SATURDAY. SHE LEFT A NOTE SAYING SHE WAS COMMITTING SUICIDE IN GRATITUDE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THE BUDDHIST MOVEMENT AND BECAUSE SHE WAS TIRED OF "VIETNAMESE FIGHTING VIETNAMESE."

SIX BUDDHIST MONKS AND ONE NUN BURNED THEMSELVES TO DEATH PRIOR TO THE COUP IN SUPPORT OF BUDDHIST DEMANDS ON DIEM, A ROMAN CATHOLIC, FOR GREATER RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

BJ430PES